

TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Niedermeyer, Pam Burek, Erin Pirro, Mark Higby, and John O'Brien.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Michelle Niedermeyer. Introductions were made to welcome Mark Higby, the newly appointed member of the Agricultural Commission. Michelle gave an overview of the Commission's activities and plans to help orient Mark.

OPEN FARM DAY

- All farms that participated last year, with the exception of Briarwoods Farm, will participate in 2016. Wilhelm Farm will also join in for Open Farm Day 2016.
- All sponsors from 2015 have agreed to sponsor again in 2016.
- A photo was selected from the Facebook contest and will be used on the new postcards.
- Michelle and Pam will work on the press list.

John O'Brien arrived at 7:20 p.m.

- Discussion was held on what to select as a grand prize in the passport contest this year. Consensus was to find something that was sourced from more than one participating farm. Decision was tabled until a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Higby mentioned that he is participating in the new farmer's market at South Church this summer, and asked if the Agricultural Commission would support this market. Discussion was held on some of the challenges that local farmer's markets present to our local farms, primarily that sending farm staff away from their own farm stores and to a market is a strain on farm resources.

Mark also had questions about developments right to keep land in farm use. Erin Pirro gave information on how to submit applications for this to the department of Agriculture and also suggested that more information could be acquired through the American Farmland Trust.

MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Pam Burek, seconded by John O'Brien, the Minutes of the Feb 10, 2016 meeting were approved.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.

ON A MOTION by John O'Brien, seconded by Pam Burek, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Stuck
Recording Secretary